

## Courses Catalog Summer Semester 2018

### American Studies Leipzig

Below please find our course catalog. We will update these pages throughout the break and the semester. Unless stated otherwise, **classes start in the week of April 9, 2018.**

Students are responsible for keeping track of updates on actual course dates (some are alternating).

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## 1 Information

### Contact Information

The Institute for American Studies is located at the University's Humanities Building (Geisteswissenschaftliches Zentrum, GWZ), Beethovenstraße 15, on the 5th floor, in house 3, which is opposite the elevators/stairs.

Contact information on individual faculty members can be found on the faculty page.

### Registration for Classes

Most classes require prior registration. To learn more about registration procedures for students in different ASL programs (Magister, BA, MA; service for Lehramt), please have a look at the **Registration Information Sheet** available in the respective news item. As access to some classes is quite competitive, please take the procedures and deadlines for registration seriously.

### American Studies Modules

Modules in the BA and MA programs are designed to achieve specific learning goals, they entail a specific amount and specific types of coursework and examinations, and they may have prerequisites. To learn more about these, we strongly encourage you to have a look at our program's Module Catalog (BA; MA) and at the appendix to our Conditions of Study (BA; MA).

### International Students

International Students are very welcome in the courses offered by the Institute for American Studies. To learn more about places available in individual courses, please contact the instructor, and describe your situation briefly (i.e., exchange student, international guest student, participating in an international degree program). We will do our very best to include you in our courses.

### Courses

Course catalogs of past semesters can be found in the Downloads and Resources Area.

For course offerings in Linguistics, please consult the British Studies course catalog, available at the website of the Institute for British Studies ([anglistik.philol.uni-leipzig.de](http://anglistik.philol.uni-leipzig.de)).

Unless stated otherwise, **classes start in the week of April 9, 2018**. Students are responsible for keeping track of updates on actual course dates (some are alternating).

#### Addresses:

GWZ (Geisteswissenschaftliches Zentrum), Beethovenstr. 15

NSG (Neues Seminargebäude), Universitätsstr. 5

HSG (Hörsaalgebäude), Universitätsstr. 7

## 2 BA Courses

### 2.1 Society, History, Politics I (04-001-1002)

Module Coordinator: Crister S. Garrett

This module is meant to provide students with an interdisciplinary and integrated introduction to key developments and themes in the history, politics, and society of the United States from the colonial period to the conclusion of the Civil War. Beyond becoming acquainted with important aspects of American life, the module is meant to provide students with repeated exercises and practice in analytical thinking and expression, both in written and oral form.

**The module consists of one lecture, one seminar, and one tutorial**

**Lecture: From the Colonial Period to Reconstruction.**

Monday, 11 am - 1 pm, HS 5  
Prof. Crister Garrett  
Lehrbox: [www.lehrbox.de/737](http://www.lehrbox.de/737)

The lectures will explore how the unfolding of American history influenced American society and thus the country's political culture, institutions, and outcomes. Topics to be covered include transatlantic influences on the emergence of an American republic, the formation of republican institutions, the role of religion in shaping American politics and society, the evolution of an American capitalism, tensions between regional and national institutions and cultures, expansion and empire, and war. The course thus integrates global, transatlantic, and international developments to better understand the nature of the American experience and its impact on international affairs.

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#### Seminar

**either a)** Monday, 3 - 5 pm, GWZ 2 5.16  
Heather Prüßing  
Lehrbox: [www.lehrbox.de/577](http://www.lehrbox.de/577)

The first session of this seminar will take place on April 16.

**or b)** Wednesday, 3 - 5 pm, GWZ 2 5.16  
Heather Prüßing  
Lehrbox: [www.lehrbox.de/577](http://www.lehrbox.de/577)

The first session of this seminar will take place on April 18.

**or c)** Thursday, 1 - 3 pm, GWZ 2 5.16  
Eric Fraunholz  
Lehrbox: [www.lehrbox.de/748](http://www.lehrbox.de/748)

The first session of this seminar will take place on April 19.

In this seminar, students will read original documents and interpretative essays relating to the different themes raised during the lecture. The seminar will also emphasize the nature of academic debates by discussing scholars' contrasting views and perspectives regarding these issues. This will permit students to deepen and contextualize their knowledge about the topics covered during the lecture, while also improving their skills in research as well as in analysis and presentation.

## Tutorial (Übung)

**either a)** Monday, 1 - 3 pm, GWZ 2 5.16

Heather Prüßing

Lehrbox: [www.lehrbox.de/570](http://www.lehrbox.de/570)

The **first session** of this seminar will take place on **April 16.**

**or b)** Wednesday, 11 am - 1 pm, GWZ 2 5.16

Heather Prüßing

Lehrbox: [www.lehrbox.de/570](http://www.lehrbox.de/570)

The **first session** of this seminar will take place on **April 18.**

**or c)** Wednesday, 1 - 3 pm, GWZ 2 5.16

Heather Prüßing

Lehrbox: [www.lehrbox.de/570](http://www.lehrbox.de/570)

The **first session** of this seminar will take place on **April 18.**

The Praxis Seminar (Tutorial/Übung) will involve students practicing American-English academic writing on the subject of American society, history, and politics. Analytical writing skills will be developed with diverse assignments. Students will also practice regularly the presentation of ideas (a thesis) orally and how to substantiate them with evidence and analysis.

## 2.2 Introduction to Linguistics for American Studies (04-001-1003)

Module Coordinator: Dr. Sylvia Reuter (Anglistik)

Die Vorlesung "Einführung in die synchrone Linguistik" führt ein in die Grundlagen der modernen englischen Sprachwissenschaft und gibt einen Überblick über die wesentlichen Teilgebiete der Disziplin. Das Seminar "Systemlinguistik" vertieft das in der Vorlesung "Einführung in die synchrone Linguistik" vermittelte Wissen aus den Bereichen Morphologie, Phonetik/Phonologie, Semantik und Syntax mit spezifischer Relevanz für das moderne amerikanische Englisch. Die Übung "Geschriebener Akademischer Diskurs" macht mit Form, Funktion, Entwicklung, Struktur und Stil englischer Textelemente als Basis des akademischen Essays vertraut.

**The module consists of one lecture, one seminar, and one tutorial**

### 1003-1 Vorlesung: Introduction to Synchronic Linguistics

Tuesday, 1 - 3 pm, HSG HS 3  
Doris Schönefeld (Institut für Anglistik)

Exam: class test (120 min) covering the lecture and the seminar

The lecture aims at familiarizing students of English with the essentials of (English) linguistics. We will set out to define the field, the study of language, and will work our way through a programme clarifying central terms and issues of the major branches of linguistics. These comprise phonetics/phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, and pragmatics, as well as sociolinguistics and psycholinguistics, sitting at the interface of language to other phenomena. Time permitting, we will also have a look at the historical development of linguistics. The lecture assumes a thorough knowledge of English, but does not presuppose any previous study of grammar or other aspects of linguistics.

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### 1003-2 Seminar: Systemlinguistik: Introduction to Synchronic Linguistics

**either a)** Tuesday, 9 - 11am, NSG 305  
Jakob Neels (Institut für Anglistik)

**or b)** Tuesday, 11 am - 1 pm, NSG 305  
Jakob Neels (Institut für Anglistik)

This seminar is conceived together with the introductory lecture as the basis for further studies in linguistics. Whereas in the lecture you familiarize yourself with basic concepts, the seminar focuses on in-depth discussion, exercises and task solving. We will start our linguistic journey with phonetics & phonology, and after that move into other traditional areas of linguistics such as morphology, syntax, and semantics. Needless to add, the textbook describes English as used in the USA.

### 1003-3 Übung: Sprachpraxis für Amerikanisten: Written Academic Discourse

**either a)** Thursday, 9 - 11 am, NSG 329  
Peter Tomic (Institut für Anglistik)

**or b)** Thursday, 11 am - 1 pm, NSG 329  
Peter Tomic (Institut für Anglistik)

**or c)** Thursday, 5 - 7 pm, NSG 329  
Peter Tomic (Institut für Anglistik)

Exam: written examination (90 min)

Reading list: Williams, Joseph M. Style: *The Basics of Clarity and Grace*. Edited by Joseph Bizup, 5th ed., London, Pearson, 2014. [ISBN-13: 978-0-321-95330-8 / ISBN- 10: 0-321953304]

Please have your copy with you in our first class.

The goal of this practical language exercise is the class essay in academic English. Students will practise their analytic and interpretative text production skills in keeping with both the formal genre conventions and current research on academic writing at tertiary levels. Our exercises are geared to helping students mitigate those weaknesses detrimental to structural clarity and target those strengths conducive to enriching the formal elements in their written academic discourse. Our exercises will focus on improving i) the mechanics of academic writing, ii) approaches to text production, iii) patterns of coherence and cohesion, and iv) systematic revision techniques.

## 2.3 Literature & Culture II (04-001-1007)

Module Coordinator: Prof. Carsten Junker

The module builds on and advances the knowledge and skills students acquired in the introductory module "Literature & Culture 1." It acquaints students with major issues, concepts, and theories involved in the study of literature and (popular) culture. The module explores the canon debate and its implications for the study of U.S.-American literature and culture. In addition, it introduces students to exemplary modes and genres of literature and culture, and to their reflection in scholarship.

### The module consists of one lecture and two seminars

*The seminars of this module include a presentation conference at the end of the semester, in which students will present their final projects to the class. The two-day conference will be held on **July 13** and **July 14**. Participation is mandatory. Students are expected to block these days in their calendars. The final decision on the exact date and time of the conference will be made in coordination with the students at the beginning of the semester.*

### Lecture: Popular Culture and the Canon

Tuesday, 1 - 3 pm, HS 13  
Prof. Carsten Junker  
Lehrbox: [www.lehrbox.de/731](http://www.lehrbox.de/731)

This lecture course will conceptualize the relation between so-called high and popular culture; it will explore theoretical implications of the canon debates and theories of popular culture and use these theoretical groundings to raise questions about ways in which canonical texts are translated into popular ones, for instance. It will address various genres and media, with popular forms of cultural expression ranging from the late eighteenth century to the contemporary moment, as well as examining diverse areas and foci of cultural studies (such as performance, music, architecture, and food).

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### Seminar: 'Nature's Nation' After Nature: US Environmental Imaginations from Plymouth Rock to the Anthropocene

Monday, 1-3 pm, NSG 414  
Carlo Becker  
Lehrbox: [www.lehrbox.de/735](http://www.lehrbox.de/735)

The first session of this seminar will take place on **April 9**.

Over the past few decades, the reality of human-made climate change has sparked intense debates concerning our relationship towards the environment. 'Nature' has been variously imagined as Judeo-Christian servant to man, scientific justification for social inequality, capitalist storehouse for cheap labor and goods, or as post-Romantic object of touristic pleasure. As such, it has usually been cast in opposition to the human. In reaction, the recently popularized idea of the Anthropocene points out our geologic record of sediment removal, carbon release, and nuclear fallout in order to re-conceptualize humanity not only as part of, but as nature. Examples that illustrate, complicate, or

undermine these general assumptions about throughout US-American literary and cultural history in 'texts' ranging from early Puritan accounts to Romantic paintings to postmodern cityscapes.

The goal of this seminar is to analyze texts through an ecocritical lens in order to understand how they employ different concepts of 'nature.' We will therefore talk about important traditions and developments of US environmental imaginations. This will enable us to interrogate historically contingent relationships between the physical environment and national character, economic organization, as well as race, class, and gender identities. We will discuss concepts such as wilderness, the frontier, environmental justice, dark ecology, and hyperobjects, and apply them to the interpretation of fiction, nonfiction, and audiovisual media. Striving for productive interdisciplinarity, our textual analyses will be guided by theories from literary studies as well as from the fields of geography, (political) ecology, and environmental philosophy. Our reading list will go beyond the traditionally white and male canon to include female and nonwhite authors: Texts will most likely include works by Henry David Thoreau, Willa Cather, Terry Tempest Williams, Leslie Marmon Silko, and Jeff Vandermeer as well as the TV show *Hell on Wheels* and the film *Into the Wild*.

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### **Seminar: (In)Visibilities: Constructions of Whiteness in US Literature and Culture**

Wednesday, 1 - 3 pm, NSG 304  
Stefan Schubert  
Lehrbox: [www.lehrbox.de/736](http://www.lehrbox.de/736)

The first session of this seminar will take place on **April 18**.

As Richard Dyer noted in 1997, “to say that one is interested in race has come to mean that one is interested in any racial imagery other than that of white people.” More than twenty years later, the critical study of whiteness has gained more traction as an academic subject, attempting to change this lack of critical focus. Yet while whiteness is the dominant normative category throughout American literature, culture, and society, it is still characterized by a central paradox: It is simultaneously uniquely visible—in that it is over-represented in fictional texts and suffuses most cultural realms—and conspicuously invisible in that it is still hardly acknowledged as a category that fundamentally structures people’s daily lives.

In this seminar, we will investigate texts from different epochs, genres, and media for how they represent and construct whiteness. While we are also interested in tracing the historical foundations of representations of whiteness, a particular focus will be on contemporary popular culture, in which questions of whiteness have received renewed attention with the election of Donald Trump, whom Ta-Nehisi Coates calls “America’s first white president.” A central goal of the seminar will be to make whiteness visible, to interrogate its normative and ideological power, and to investigate how it intersects with other categories: How do texts mark whiteness or how and why do they leave it invisible, how is whiteness constructed against blackness and other categories, and how does it intersect with femininity and masculinity or issues of class? How can terms such as white privilege, whitelash, or white victimhood help us understand the intrinsic connection between constructions of whiteness and power?

We will look at a range of different media and genres, possibly including films such as *Fight Club* (1999), *Get Out* (2017), and *Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri* (2017); fiction by Toni Morrison or Gillian Flynn; as well as contemporary TV shows and nonfictional or ‘political’ texts.



## 2.4 The Anglo-American World in a Global Context (04-001-1008)

Module Coordinator: Dr. Katja Schmieder

This module is meant to provide students with a deeper understanding of how the United States and Great Britain/Ireland relate to each other and other countries that together make up what is often referred to as the “Anglo-Saxon tradition”. Especially in the wake of contemporary globalization but certainly during earlier periods of mobility, exchange, and discovery the concept of an Anglo-American world held great sway in many corners of the globe. Indeed, for much of continental Europe today, “the Anglo-American world” provides a basic compass for understanding fundamental developments in politics, economics, and culture. This module is meant to provide students with a more sophisticated understanding of how the United States and Great Britain have perceived and influenced each other historically and currently, and also to provide a deeper understanding of what the “Anglo-American world” means during our current period of global change.

**The module consists of one seminar in English and one in American Studies**

**1107-1 Seminar: Literatur oder Kulturstudien Großbritanniens:**

*Von den folgenden Seminarangeboten (1107-1a-b) ist ein Kurs zu belegen.*

**1107-1a Seminar: British and American Poetry**

Wednesday, 9 - 11 am, NSG 213  
Elmar Schenkel (Institut für Anglistik)

Reading list (to be purchased): Raimund Borgmeier, Michael Hanke, eds. *English Poetry—An Anthology* (Reclam). More texts on moodle

Recommended preparation:

Robert Penn Warren, ed. *Six Centuries of Great Poetry*.

Helen Vendler, ed. *Voices and Visions. The Poet in America*.

Carl Woodring, James Shapiro, eds. *The Columbia History of British Poetry*.

Horst Meller, Rudolf Sühnel, eds. *British and American Classical Poems*.

Exam: oral presentation and essay in this class or in 1107-2

Britain and the USA are not only divided by the same language, as Oscar Wilde once put it, but they are also connected through literature, especially poetry. Both nations draw from common sources and the poetical cultures have influenced each other continuously. In this class, we shall look at the best known poets and verses—from Romantics to Emily Dickinson, from Modernism (Eliot, Pound, Hilda Doolittle) to D.H. Lawrence, Ted Hughes, Seamus Heaney, Sylvia Plath and the present British poet laureate, Carol Ann Duffy. The idea is to start building a treasury of English language poetry to which one can resort even in later life. A good poem is a companion for life. How do poems work (on us, in themselves)? What makes a good poem tick? What do they reflect about the times when they were written, how do they transcend their period? Where does American and British poetry converge? These are the questions we wish to pursue in this class.

## 1107-1b Seminar: Transnational Noir in Film, Fiction and TV

Thursday, 1 - 3 pm, NSG 125  
Isabell Große (Institut für Anglistik)

Recommended Preparation: Review the characteristics of crime fiction; film analysis and literary analysis.

### Reading list:

Primary Texts: Raymond Chandler–*The Big Sleep* (1939), Ian Rankin–*Knots and Crosses* (1987), Stieg Larsson–*Män som Hatar Kvinnor* (*The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*, 2005); Films and TV series: *Double Indemnity* (1944), *Twin Peaks* (1990/91), *Broen/The Bridge* (Season 1), *True Detective* (Season 1)

Secondary Texts: Stephen Knight–*Crime Fiction, 1800-2000: Detection, Death, Diversity* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2004); John Scaggs–*Crime Fiction* (Routledge, 2005). | There will be a reader with secondary texts.

Exam: oral presentation and essay in this class or in 1107-2

The label ‘noir’ evokes images of darkness and pessimism, of troubled heroes/heroines crossing boundaries into forbidden zones and of hard-boiled detectives trying to re-establish order in a nightmarish world. But, what exactly constitutes the noir? Is it a visual style, a tone or a genre? Bearing that mind in, this discussion-based course will first discuss various definitions of the term, and trace its history starting with its emergence in the United States. Moreover, we will investigate the global development of the genre by analysing two of its most popular variants, namely the Tartan Noir and the Nordic Noir. Issues to be considered include narrative structure, character development, adaptation techniques and themes such as heroism, gender, philosophy and politics. The novels have to be purchased and read before class.

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## 1107-2 Seminar: Literatur oder Kulturgeschichte der USA:

Von den folgenden Seminarangeboten (1107-2a-b) ist ein Kurs zu belegen.

### 1107-2a Seminar: The North American Rust Belt: Deindustrialization and its Social and Economic Consequences in the Detroit-Windsor Metropolitan Region

Tuesday, 9 - 11 am, GWZ 2 5.16  
Richard Bachmann  
Lehrbox: [www.lehrbox.de/730](http://www.lehrbox.de/730)

In the wake of the 2016 U.S. Presidential Election, commentators often pointed to a particular region within the United States to explain the rise of Donald J. Trump and right-wing populism. The “Rust Belt” refers to a cluster of U.S. States surrounding the Great Lakes, which used to constitute the industrial heartland of the United States. For almost half a century, however, communities in this area have experienced large-scale shutdowns of the factories, steel mills, auto plants or mines that had sustained them in the past. As the symbols of industrial might gradually turned to rust, once strong working-class communities faltered. This left many of their members behind with an increasing sense of isolation and growing feelings of anger and resentment.

While the Rust Belt is often associated solely with the United States, its expanse does not simply stop at the U.S.-Canadian border. In fact, it reaches far into Canada's Province of Ontario whose economic fortune throughout the 20th and 21st century has been bound to whatever happened South of the border. Therefore, it is accurate to talk about a North American Rust Belt today, a transnational entity which encompasses parts of the United States and Canada.

In this course we will study the North American Rust Belt by taking a closer look at the Detroit-Windsor region. Shaped by the fate of the U.S. auto industry, the Detroit-Windsor region highlights the economic and social dislocations of the process which has made the North American Rust Belt. This process is called deindustrialization. Economists usually present deindustrialization as an inevitable precondition of a larger structural transformation of Western economies during the 20th century from production-based to the service-based ones. Yet in the Detroit-Windsor region, political decisions on both sides of the U.S. - Canadian border and the dynamics of global capitalism have shaped and driven deindustrialization in crucial ways.

In the first part of this course, we will develop an understanding of what scholars mean by deindustrialization, and how it has played out in the Detroit-Windsor region. This includes examining the history of the region and its main industry, the role of the U.S. - Canadian border, as well as the impact of national policy and global economic processes.

In the second part, the participants of the course will have the opportunity to explore various aspects of the deindustrialization of the Detroit-Windsor region through individual or collaborative research projects. For instance, they could decide to look into how a certain policy has influenced deindustrialization, analyze how popular culture has dealt with the consequences of the region's economic restructuring, or explore what a postindustrial Detroit-Windsor looks like, to name just a few potential topics. Participants will present a work-in-progress version of their research project at one of the two colloquium sessions at the end of the semester.

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### **1107-2b Seminar: (Con-)Textualizing Anglo-American Reproduction: History, Power, and Fiction**

Thursday, 9 -11 am, GWZ 2 5.16

Dr. Katja Schmieder

Lehrbox: [www.lehrbox.de/738](http://www.lehrbox.de/738)

In the UK and the US, the many processes involved in pregnancy, childbirth, and parenthood have been fiercely contested territories, not least due to the nations' spearheading roles in the world: power is at stake. In our seminar, we will thus interrogate how scientific, religious, political, economic, and literary accounts give evidence of the con-/textualization of such struggles, and how they have helped maintain or contradict the hegemonic power system of state and government since the 19th century.

In order to examine the rhetorical means (as expressed in laws, medical and economic interventions, morality, popular culture) used to influence various people's lives to encourage or withhold them from reproducing, we will thus try to elicit the narrative patterns and ideological strategies different texts apply. A reconsideration of postmodernist theoretical concepts (Foucault's governmentality, Baudrillard's reproduction, White's metahistory) and traditional scholarly views – from simplistic Marxist categories (e.g., class) to Feminist Studies – might help us in our discussions. In this seminar, we will, after all, employ the example of human procreation to talk about textual representations that have shaped the boundaries between the utterly private and the utterly public throughout Anglo-American history.

Our “texts” will include the novels *Frankenstein* and *Brave New World* along with examples from recent TV shows, such as *Vikings*, *The Handmaid's Tale*, or *Game of Thrones*, but also scientific and religious writings.

## **2.5 Society, History, and Politics III (04-001-1010)**

Module Coordinator: Crister S. Garrett

This module is meant to provide students with the opportunity to engage in-depth selected societal, historical, and political themes that have shaped and shape the United States. Issues will be explored in terms of basic questions relating to American identity, the nature of power in American society, the negotiation of forms of consensus, and how American dynamics influence the country's exercise of power and transcultural undertakings in the international arena.

### **The module consists of two seminars**

#### **Seminar: The Contemporary United States in a Transatlantic Context**

Wednesday, 3 - 5 pm, NSG 321  
Prof. Crister Garrett  
Lehrbox: [www.lehrbox.de/740](http://www.lehrbox.de/740)

This seminar will focus on the making of U.S. foreign policy in a transatlantic context. We will explore the institutions and values shaping American foreign policy, especially regarding German-American relations. We will engage in a comparative historical analysis to better understand how cultures of politics, economy, and social policy emerge in both a transnational and transcultural context. This seminar will include a one-day "transatlantic summit" involving SHP III students and students from Ohio University that will be coordinated with the United States Consulate/Embassy. The theme of the summit will involve a contemporary and 'controversial' issue, i.e., one that highlights societal differences and thus the challenges in pursuing international politics and diplomacy.

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#### **Seminar: "To Supply the Wants, and be Carriers for Them All" — An Economic and Historical Survey of United States Foreign Policy**

Tuesday, 3 - 5 pm, GWZ 2 5.16  
Tobias Schlobach  
Lehrbox: [www.lehrbox.de/708](http://www.lehrbox.de/708)

This seminar will explore United States foreign policy from a historical and economic perspective and provide an overview of trends and shifts — both past and recent — in the country's relationship with the global economy. We will examine both individual cases and broader developments fundamental to United States foreign and economic policy, thereby mapping general dynamics and specific interdependencies between the two, with the purpose of tracing the impact economic issues had and have on the construction and focus of U.S. foreign policy and vice versa. We will also survey key concepts in and theoretical approaches to economics and international relations and evaluate their significance for the understanding and study of United States foreign policy. Over the course of the semester, this seminar will build and sharpen students' vocabulary and skills for understanding and analyzing current issues in United States foreign (economic) policy.

## 2.6 Literature & Culture III (04-001-1011)

Module Coordinator: Dr. Sebastian Herrmann

The module aims to deepen students' knowledge of US literature and culture, and of the methods and theories involved in their study. Two seminars allow students to explore exemplary themes and discourses in literary and cultural studies. A tutorial assists students in advancing their academic writing skills so as to master the module's advanced writing assignments.

### The module consists of two seminars

#### Seminar: Americans Abroad

Tuesday, 5 - 7 pm, GWZ 2 5.16  
Prof. Rajesh Parameswaran (Picador Guest Professor)  
[lehrbox coming soon]

This class will examine fiction about Americans living or traveling abroad. The class will ask questions such as: How do journeys affect the traveler, and the places traveled to? How do these travel narratives inform our view of nationality, citizenship, race, and identity? What do the stories say about the relationship of the United States and the world? Authors examined may include Herman Melville, Henry James, Ernest Hemingway, James Baldwin, Jane Bowles, and Don DeLillo.

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#### Seminar: Data, (Digital) Culture, and Identity

Thursday, 3 - 5 pm, GWZ 2 5.16  
Dr. Sebastian Herrmann  
Lehrbox: [www.lehrbox.de/743](http://www.lehrbox.de/743)  
The **first session** of this seminar will take place on **April 19**.

The recent news of a massive data breach that led to the 'theft' of the facebook data of some fifty million US citizens cast a spotlight on two interrelated aspects of contemporary culture: the unprecedented connection between identity and its (digital) traces, and the intensity of our cultural anxieties regarding this connection.

In this seminar, we will explore the relationship between data and identity by engaging fictional and nonfictional texts, as well as a body of theoretical work. Engaging topics ranging from the fears of surveillance to the pleasures of the selfie, we will ask how subjectivity and practices of information intersect, how data can put individuals at risk, or create them, and how and by which tropes our culture imagines these connections.

Our first meeting will take place on **19. April**.

## 2.7 Ethnicity and Diversity in US Culture II: Multicultural and Multilingual America

The objective of this module is to deepen students' knowledge of the ethnic, cultural and linguistic diversity of the United States and of the theories and tools to analyze this diversity. Two seminars - one focusing on the study of ethnic minorities and one on the US as a multilingual nation - will enable students to develop their skills in discussing specific historical and cultural developments related to the multiethnic United States on an academic level.

Module Coordinator: Prof. Gabriele Pizarz-Ramírez

### The module consists of two seminars

#### 1012-1 Seminar: Mixed Race America in US Literature

Wednesday, 9 am - 11 am, GWZ 2 5.16

Prof. Gabriele Pizarz-Ramírez

Lehrbox: [www.lehrbox.de/746](http://www.lehrbox.de/746)

**This course begins on April 18.**

Scholars predict that by the year 2050, one in five Americans will identify with two or more racial ancestries. Multiracial individuals are sometimes celebrated in the media as symbols of America's 'raceless' future (Nobles, *Shades of Citizenship*), often in stark contrast to historical representations of mixed race persons who were referred to derogatively as half-breeds, mongrels, or tragic mulattoes. In this course we will explore narratives of race-mixing, passing, and multiraciality in American literature from the late 18th century to the present, discussing the various concepts and representations of racial hybridity, creolité and mestizaje as well as the significance of today's constructions of multiraciality. We will consider texts by Crèvecoeur, L.M. Child, K. Chopin, H. Wilson, G. Anzaldúa, and others, as well as texts from the field of critical mixed-race studies.

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#### 1012-2 Seminar: Varietäten des US-English

Tuesday, 11 am - 1 pm, NSG 421

Sandra Jansen (Institut für Anglistik)

Exam: term paper covering both seminars

After the introduction into the concept of variation/varieties we will deal with language variation in contemporary American English/US-English. Regional variation will be the main issue as we learn about the history of US-English dialects and the contemporary dialect areas (e.g. Boston /New England and NYC) together with their features in pronunciation, grammar and vocabulary as compared with General American English (= WesternType). Current developments and ethnic variation are connected topics. As we proceed, insights into theoretical phenomena will be gained such as how to elicit spontaneous speech for research, why linguistic variables are important, or what isoglosses and hypercorrection tell us about variation in language.

### 3 MA Courses

#### 3.1 Political Cultures in a Transatlantic Context (04-038-2005)

Module Coordinator: Prof. Crister S. Garrett

This module is meant to provide students with a deeper understanding of the concept of political culture in a transatlantic context. Political culture is generally defined as the traditions, practices, institutions, material considerations and norms that shape how a society pursues politics and constructs priorities in its political process, for example, in the case of governing. Political culture involves the fields of cultural history, literature, cultural studies, political science, sociology, anthropology, and economics. It is a key concept for understanding the nature of politics and society in the United States, in Europe, and in any comparison between two regions involving comparative, international, transnational, transcultural, and global approaches to the study of history, politics, and society.

**The module consists of two seminars**

##### **Seminar: Constructing and Contesting Policy Communities in a Transatlantic and Global Context**

Tuesday, 1 - 3 pm, NSG 304  
Prof. Crister Garrett  
Lehrbox: [www.lehrbox.de/739](http://www.lehrbox.de/739)

It has become a truism of the twenty-first century that whether for America or any other nation-state, key issues of societal well-being can no longer be framed in purely national terms. Scholars and practitioners are thus increasingly turning to the study and use of international, multinational, and transnational policy architectures to address complex issues impacting fundamentally the security of a society. This seminar will explore how three such core issues — migration, environmental policy, and trade — are placed in international policy communities to construct new forms of political practice. The seminar will focus especially on contemporary EU-US relations, with the transatlantic policy community arguably the most important for America in terms of reassessing and recalibrating national norms, institutions, and political practices. The concept of cultures of security will provide an overarching theme for the seminar.

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##### **Seminar: Cultures of Capitalism in a Transatlantic and Global Context**

Thursday, 3 - 5 pm, NSG 401  
Prof. Crister Garrett  
Lehrbox: [www.lehrbox.de/741](http://www.lehrbox.de/741)

Understanding the American experience, and interpretations of it, runs fundamentally through narratives of capitalism. The expectations, norms, institutions, and stories about the pursuit of profit during the course of American history inherently inform how Americans perceive themselves and pursue politics. American capitalism influences in turn global politics and political economy, and global politics influences American politics and economic development. Perhaps no arena is more important for the evolution of American capitalism than the transatlantic space, as the country compares and



contrasts its cultures of capitalism with varieties of capitalism found in Europe. Of increasing importance for the United States and Europe in reflecting on the practices of economic order are the emergence of models contesting a so-called western liberal order, especially in the case of China. Exploring discourses of capitalism and their differences underscores, in short, how cultures of capitalism emerge, and are contested, in both a transatlantic and a global context.

### 3.2 Media and Society (04-038-2006)

Module Coordinator: Dr. Sebastian Herrmann

Media and its different forms lays at the heart of constructing and disseminating images, ideas, information, and identities that have shaped the very notion of “America” and how it has been received, integrated, adapted in every corner of the world, and especially in Europe. Conversely, European traditions in such mediums - whether journalism in all its forms (print, radio, tv, internet) or film, music, literature, - have had and have strong influences on many aspects of American society. This module is meant to deepen student knowledge about how media and society have evolved in the United States, Europe, and in a transatlantic context.

**The module consists of two seminars**

#### **Seminar: Constituting Public Spheres and Selves in Genres and Media**

Tuesday, 5 - 7 pm, GWZ 3 5.15

Prof. Carsten Junker

Lehrbox: [www.lehrbox.de/733](http://www.lehrbox.de/733)

This seminar examines how public spheres and selves are constituted in various genres and media in historical and transnational perspectives. For instance, eighteenth-century scholars have recognized the significance of letters as a driving motor of the formation of gendered, raced, and classed concepts of selves, as an instrument of staking out claims to subject positions in public discourses and thus accessing and establishing public spheres in the first place. Equally, the proliferation of newspaper publishing during the Enlightenment period has been credited for creating public spheres. More recently, what parameters has the Internet provided for constituting notions of selves and public/private spheres? Questions such as this one will be at the core of the seminar, in which students will be required to develop their own research agenda.

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#### **Seminar: Theorizing Fake News**

Thursday, 11 am – 1 pm, GWZ 3 5.15

Dr. Sebastian Herrmann

Lehrbox: [www.lehrbox.de/742](http://www.lehrbox.de/742)

The **first session** of this seminar will take place on **April 19**.

Ever since the presidential election of 2016, ‘fake news’ has become a shorthand for a range of discussions about the representative function of journalism, its promises and its limitations in contemporary, media-saturated societies.

We will use current discussions on fake news, ‘alternative facts,’ trolling, and filter bubbles as an entry point into a larger, theory-driven exploration of the relationship between the social institution of ‘the news,’ the notion of the public sphere, and the politics of representative democracy. In the process, we will work to historicize the particular understanding of objectivity that underlies these debates.

Participants will be expected to master a substantial reading work load, to write short, weekly responses, and to engage in online discussions accompanying the seminar. Details will be discussed in the first session. To participate in the class, please send a short email to [smherrmann@uni-leipzig.de](mailto:smherrmann@uni-leipzig.de) by 9. April and be ready to complete a short writing task for the first meeting, which will take place on 19. April.

### 3.3 Difference and Literature (04-038-2007)

Module Coordinator: Prof. Gabriele Pizarz-Ramírez

The module addresses the negotiation of socio-cultural difference in U.S.-American literature. It aims to deepen students' understanding of 'difference' in its key manifestations 'race,' class, and gender with a focus on their articulation and contestation in literary texts. The seminars explore specific forms of difference in their historical, social, cultural, and aesthetic contexts. They will embed selected readings in 'difference and literature' within discussions of U.S. literary history and reflections on literary theory.

**The module consists of two seminars**

#### **Seminar: The Local and the Global – Literary Regionalism Revisited**

Tuesday, 3 - 5 pm, GWZ 3 5.15

Prof. Gabriele Pizarz-Ramírez

Lehrbox: [www.lehrbox.de/745](http://www.lehrbox.de/745)

**This course starts on April 17.**

What is the relationship between a particular geographical framework or “mapping” of the world and the ways in which people perceive and respond to their surroundings? How does a regionalist sensibility manifest itself in narrative? How can regional literature remain relevant in a modern global community? And why should we continue to read regionalist fiction in an age of expanding international communications and increasing nonlocal forms of affiliation? In this course we will address these and other questions, reading the regionalist tradition of the late 19th and early 20th century as well as more contemporary writings about regions such as the West, the South, or the Pacific Northwest in American and global contexts.

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#### **Seminar: Manifesto!**

Wednesday, 11 am - 1 pm, GWZ 3 5.15

Prof. Carsten Junker

Lehrbox: [www.lehrbox.de/734](http://www.lehrbox.de/734)

Manifestos perform interventions, they are public declarations that aim and claim to mark a difference between a given status quo and a desired outcome. Manifestos can be political as well as cultural; they span a wide range of discourses and practices. The seminar will explore the explosive power of manifestos, their manifestations, mechanisms, and potential effects. We will examine various literary, artistic, and political manifestos to develop a sense of manifestos as form, interrogating their respective strategies, historical frameworks, and the fields in which they intervene. We will further engage literary and other cultural texts, discussing ways in which they translate and formalize declarations of manifestos. In a collaborative effort, participants will develop a reading list in class to allow them to factor in their own research interests.

### 3.4 Interamerican Studies and Latino/a Cultures (04-038-2016)

Module Coordinator: Prof. Gabriele Pizarz-Ramírez

This module helps students to develop an understanding of the historical and cultural interrelationships between the United States and other regions in the hemisphere as well as of the histories and cultures of U.S. Latinos/as in the context of current debates about migration, national identity and multiculturalism.

**The module consists of two out of three seminars**

*You can choose between these two seminars:*

**Seminar: The Americas as a Hemispheric Space**

Tuesday, 9 - 11 am, GWZ 3 5.15  
Prof. Gabriele Pizarz-Ramírez  
Lehrbox: [www.lehrbox.de/744](http://www.lehrbox.de/744)  
**This course starts on April 17.**

This course situates the study of American cultural production in the context of the American hemisphere rather than the nation state. We will investigate how the possibilities for the study of American literature open up when “America” is understood not as a synonym for an isolated United States but as a network of historical and cultural connections that have extended across the hemisphere from the period of colonization to the present. We will read theoretical texts from the fields of inter-American and border studies as well as novels, stories, plays and other texts that articulate the intercultural relationships between the United States and Latin America, Canada and the Caribbean. The first part of this MA course will be taught as regular class sessions, followed by a project phase in which participants will be expected to investigate a research project of their own choice. The course will conclude with a half-day colloquium dedicated to the presentation and discussion of the student projects.

Reading materials for this course will be available from Lehrbox.

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**Seminar: Literatures of the US Rimlands: Southern Louisiana and Florida**

Thursday, 5 - 7 pm, GWZ 2 5.16  
Prof. Gabriele Pizarz-Ramírez  
Lehrbox: [www.lehrbox.de/747](http://www.lehrbox.de/747)  
**This course begins on April 19.**

Southern Louisiana (especially New Orleans) and Florida have taken a special place in the imagination of Americans, due to their geographical location at the US Gulf coast and as places that have linked the United States to the Caribbean. They have also often been represented as “different” from the rest of the US due to their tropical climate and racially and ethnically diverse populations. In this course we will explore how the rimland position as well as the histories and cultures of these states have translated into texts and visual material produced about them by travelers and locals, and how they have served as sites of projection for different ideas of nationhood, cultural identity, and belonging.

Reading materials for this course will be available from Lehrbox. Please buy Dave Eggers, *Zeitoun*.

One of the Seminars above can be replaced by one of the following two seminars:

**Seminar: Teatro y memoria: usos documentales  
en el teatro chileno y latinoamericano reciente**

Monday, 3 - 5 pm, room tba  
Prof. Dr. Mauricio Barría

[course description coming soon]

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**Seminar: La novela de la selva:**

**Der lateinamerikanische Regenwald-Roman**

Wednesday, 1 - 3 pm, GWZ 2 3.16  
Prof. Jobst Welge

Das Seminar umfasst vier Themengebiete. Das erste Themengebiet dient der Einführung in das Seminarthema unter Berücksichtigung von Texten von Euclides da Cunha und Nancy Leys Stepan. Das zweite Themengebiet beschäftigt sich genauer mit José Eustasio Riveras Werk „La Voragine“, während das dritte Themengebiet Alejo Carpentiers Werk „Los Pasos Perdidos“ zum Gegenstand hat. Den Abschluss des Seminars bildet Mario Vargas Llosas Werk „El hablador“.

Genauere Angaben zur verwendeten Literatur und den benötigten Primärtexten finden Sie im Moodle.

## 4 Lehramt Courses

### 4.1 04-AME-1401: Literatures and Cultures of the USA

Module Coordinator: Prof. Carsten Junker, Prof. Gabriele Pizarz-Ramírez

für Lehramt Englisch Gym, MS, Sonderpäd. (Pflicht 5./6. Semester)

für M.Sc. Wirtschaftspädagogik (Wahlpflicht 1./2.Semester)

Dieses Modul und das Fachdidaktikmodul sind über das 5. und 6. Semester verteilt. Lehramtsstudierende müssen daher in beiden Semestern die jeweils angebotene Hälfte beider Module belegen.

**The module consists of one lecture and one seminar**

#### 1401-2 Vorlesung Literatur der USA: American Literary History

Wednesday, 5 - 7 pm, HS 5  
Prof. Carsten Junker  
Lehrbox: [www.lehrbox.de/732](http://www.lehrbox.de/732)

The lectures will provide an overview of central literary movements, authors, and texts of American literary history against the backdrop of influential socio-cultural developments.

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#### 1401-3 Seminar Kultur und Diversität der USA:

Wednesday, 9 - 11 am, NSG 321  
Eleonora Ravizza

**or**

Wednesday, 11 am - 1 pm, NSG 321  
Eleonora Ravizza

**or**

Thursday, 11 am - 1 pm, GWZ 2 5.16 NSG 401  
Eleonora Ravizza

**or**

Thursday, 1 - 3 pm, GWZ 2 5.16 NSG 403  
Eleonora Ravizza

Moodle: [moodle2.uni-leipzig.de/course/view.php?id=17002](http://moodle2.uni-leipzig.de/course/view.php?id=17002)

Historical, political, and social developments in the United States were and are influenced by the rapidly changing national landscape. In this seminar, we will discuss various topics relevant to contemporary United States in connection to fundamental American studies categories, such as race, gender, class, and religion. In addition to gaining knowledge about the historical background, students will also have the opportunity to apply their findings in group discussions about a variety of texts, such as newspaper articles, magazine articles, and online videos. The seminar thus invites an interdisciplinary dialog between history, politics, and cultural studies.

## 5 Writing

### 5.1 BA Professional Skills Module “Creative Writing: Envisioning America”

Wednesday, 3.15 - 4.45 pm, GWZ 3 5.15  
Rajesh Parameswaran (Picador Guest Professor)

**Seminar: Short Story Workshop**

Wednesday, 3.15 - 4 pm, GWZ 3 5.15

**Tutorial: Creative Writing**

Wednesday, 4 - 4.45 pm, GWZ 3 5.15

This creative writing class will focus on the role of voice in short stories. Participants in the class will be assigned writing exercises, and by the end of the class, will complete a short story. Participants will be expected to read and actively discuss their classmates’ work. We will also read and critique short stories encompassing a range of styles and approaches. Readings will draw from an anthology of contemporary short stories.

Please also see our news item for more information on this module.

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### Writing Clinic

Monday, 11 am - 13 pm, GWZ 3 5.01  
Heather Prüßing

Advice for American studies Kernfach and Wahlbereich students who have specific questions concerning their BA or MA theses and research papers, as well as more general writing and style issues.

If you are interested, please email Ms Prüßing about your question, and she will schedule a time with you.